

HISTORY
OF THE
EARLY SETTLEMENT
AND
INDIAN WARS
OF
WESTERN VIRGINIA;

EMBRACING
AN ACCOUNT OF THE VARIOUS EXPEDITIONS IN THE WEST, PREVIOUS TO 1795.

ALSO,
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF COL. EBENEZER ZANE, MAJOR SAMUEL M'COLLOCH, LEWIS WETZEL, GENL.
ANDREW LEWIS, GENL. DANIEL BRODHEAD, CAPT. SAMUEL BRADY, COL. WM. CRAWFORD; AND
OTHER DISTINGUISHED ACTORS IN OUR BORDER WARS.

ILLUSTRATED BY NUMEROUS ENGRAVINGS.

BY WILLS DE HASS,

Corresponding Member of the Maryland and New York Historical Societies.

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LEWIS WETZEL KILLING THREE INDIANS.

their eyes open as to the policy and designs of the English. Determined to maintain their rights, and to assert their claim to the country bordering the Ohio, the French crossed Lake Champlain, built Crown Point, and without delay proceeded to fortify certain other positions on the waters of the upper Ohio. With this view, they erected a fort at Presque Ile, on Lake Erie; another about fifteen miles distant, which they called Le Bœuf; and a third, at the mouth of French Creek, now Venango. But lest, while these little fortresses were quietly rising in the wilderness, the English might attempt corresponding means for defence, a company of soldiers was despatched by the French Commandant, with positive orders to keep intruders out of the valley of the Ohio; but to use no violence, "except in case of obstinate continuance, and then to seize their goods."¹

This party doubtless heard of the movements of Gist, and the presence of English traders on the Miami. Thither they directed their steps and demanded that the intruders should leave, or be given up as trespassers upon French soil.

The traders refusing to depart, and the Indians being unwilling to give them up, a fight ensued, in which fourteen of the Twigtees or Miamas were killed, and the traders, four in number, taken prisoners.²

This occurred early in 1752, as the Indians referred to the fact at the treaty of Logstown, in June. It may justly be

¹ We quote from a rare old book entitled, "A Memorial, containing a Summary View of Facts with their Authorities, in answer to the Observations sent by the English Ministry to the Courts of Europe," 1757.

This work clearly shows that it was the aggressive policy of England that brought on a war, the effects of which were felt from the shores of the Ohio to the banks of the Ganges.

² In all the works heretofore consulted, the number of traders taken pri-

regarded as the prologue to that long and bloody drama, the catastrophe of which, was the expulsion of the French from the Ohio valley, and the consequent loss to France of all her territory east of the Mississippi. (See note A., end of Part II.)

Thus stood matters in the spring of 1752. The English thwarted in their attempt to locate lands on the Ohio, deemed it expedient to invite the chiefs of the neighboring tribes to a convention at Logstown, when they hoped to have the claims of Great Britain recognized, as they were clearly determined to possess themselves of the lands in question, by fair means or foul. Accordingly, in June 1752, Joshua Fry,¹ Lunsford Loamax, and James Patton, commissioners on the part of Virginia, met the Sachems and chiefs of the Six Nations, and desired to know to what they objected in the treaty of Lancaster (see note B., end of Part II.), and of what else they complained. They produced the Lancaster treaty, insisted upon its ratification, and the sale of the Western lands; but the chiefs said "No; they had heard of no sale of lands west of the warriors' road² which ran at the foot of the Alleghany ridge." The Commissioners finding the Indians inflexible, and well aware of the rapid advance of the French, decided to offer great inducements in goods, &c., for the ratification of the treaty, and the relinquishment of the Indian title to lands lying south of the Ohio and east of the Kanawha.

The offers and importunities of the Virginians at length prevailed, and on the 13th June, the Indians [JUNE 13.] consented to confirm the Lancaster deed in as "full and ample a manner as if the same was here recited,"³ and guaranteeing that the settlements south-east of the Ohio

¹ Afterwards Commander in Chief over Washington at the commencement of the French war of 1755—63. He died at Wills creek (Cumberland) May 31, 1754. (Sparks' Washington, ii. 27.)

² Washington (Sparks, ii. 526) refers to a warriors' path coming out upon the Ohio, about thirty miles above the Great Kanawha. In the minutes of the treaty of Easton, in 1758, reference is made to a warriors' road striking down through the Greenbriar country to the Ohio.

³ Colony Titles, 29 to 68.

should not be disturbed by them.¹ The Virginia Commissioners, both at Logstown and Lancaster, were men of the highest character, "but treated with the Indians according to the ideas of their day."

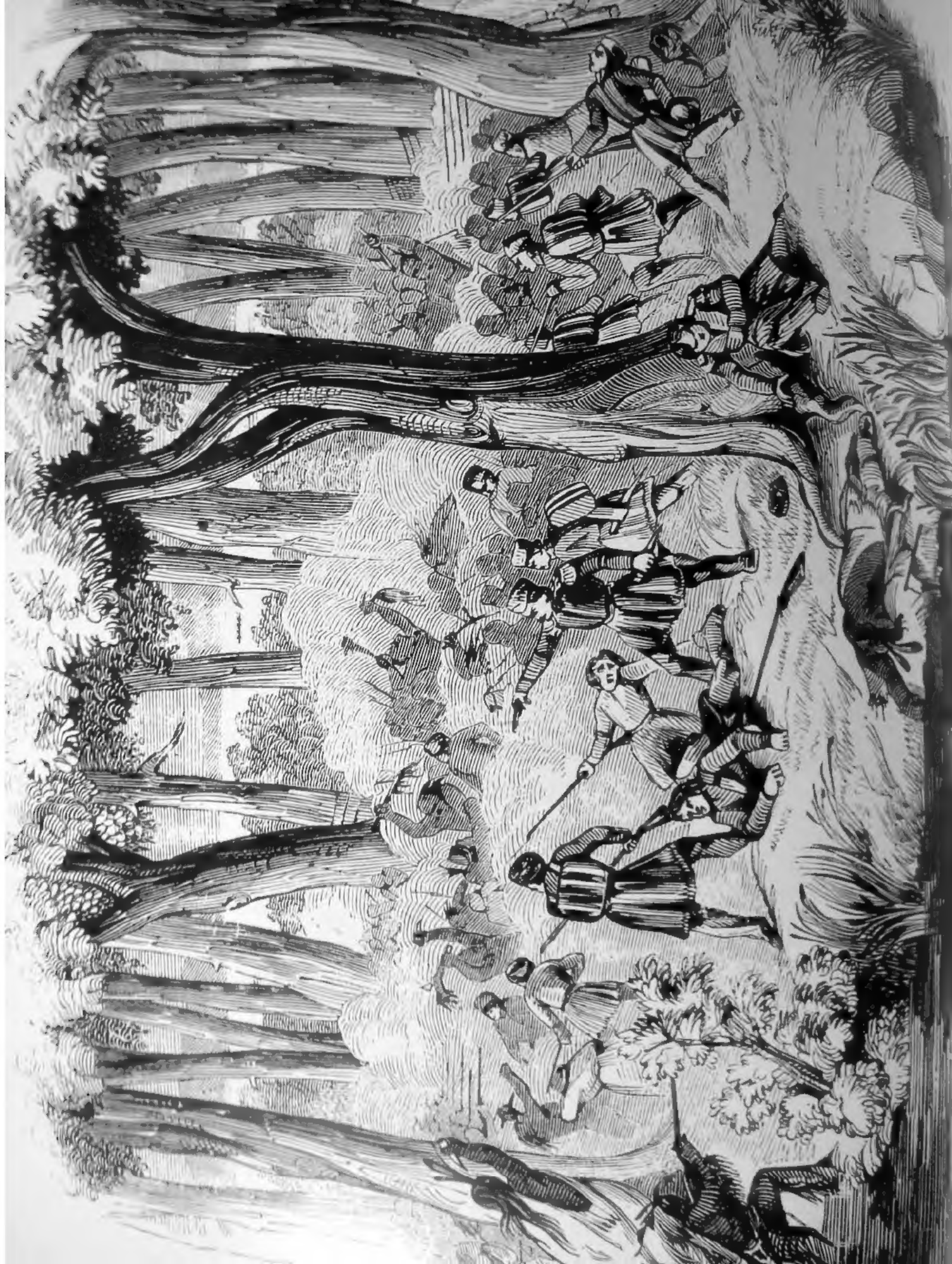
The French in the meantime had not been idle observers; and no sooner did they ascertain the result of the conference at Logstown, than it was resolved to check the English the moment they should set foot upon the banks of the Ohio. Vigorous measures were taken to complete their line of fortifications on the head-waters of the Ohio, and to supply each post with an abundance of ammunition. In the spring of 1753, the Ohio Company directed Gist to lay out a town and erect a fort at the mouth of Chartier's Creek, two and a [1753.] half miles below the forks of the Monongahela and Alleghany. This order, however, was not carried into effect, as Washington, in his journal, uses the following language:—"About two miles from this place, (the forks,) on the south-east side of the river, at the place where the Ohio Company *intended* to lay off their fort, lives Shingiss, king of the Delawares."

Well do we remember, how often, in the joyous days of ripening youth, we have roamed over the beautiful grounds celebrated as the once residence of the noble and generous Shingiss. The spot is a short distance from the river, and a little south by west from McKee's rocks;—a rugged promontory just below the mouth of Chartier's Creek. Associated with this locality are many wild and startling Indian legends.²

¹ Plain Tracts, 38-44.

² At the base of this rock, around which the water sweeps with great force, is a hole of unfathomed depth. An opinion has long existed, that into this "hole," the retreating French from Fort Du Quesne, in 1756, threw their cannon, ammunition, &c. &c. During the past summer, a search was made by some gentlemen of Pittsburg, but with what success the author has not learned. A few months since a gun carriage was fished up from the Ohio, not far from the place referred to. It was of undoubted French origin.







THE FRONTIER—WHEELING—1877.

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